

Remarks:

Claims 1, 4-17, and 19 are now pending in this application. Applicants have amended claims 1, 5, 8, 10, 11, and 13-17, added claim 19, and cancelled claims 2 and 18 to clarify the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application.

The Examiner has allowed claim 17. Applicants have amended claim 17 to ensure that consistent language is used throughout all of the claims.

The Examiner indicated that claims 2 and 9 recite allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 2 and presented new claim 19, which includes the subject matter of claims 1 and 9. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 and claims 4-12, which depend from claim 1, and claim 19 are allowable.

Applicants have amended independent claims 13 and 16 along the lines of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 13-16 are also allowable.

The restriction requirement is no longer relevant since claim 18 is no longer pending. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the restriction requirement.

Applicants have amended the claims to ensure that consistent terminology is utilized throughout, that antecedent basis exists for all terms, and to clarify claim 15. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 13, 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 4,445,077 to Kirschner. The Examiner rejected claims 4-7, 10, 12 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kirschner. The Examiner rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kirschner in view of U.S. patent 4,475,068 to Brailsford. These rejections are no longer relevant since only claims that recite subject matter that the Examiner indicated is allowable are now pending. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that this case is in condition for allowance and request favorable reconsideration of this case and issuance of the Notice of Allowance.

If an interview would advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants respectfully urge the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge fee insufficiency and credit overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

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